

September 6, 2013

VIA HAND DELIVERY

John Sexton  
President  
New York University  
70 Washington Square South  
New York, New York 10012

Dear President Sexton,

As New York City mayoral candidates, we write to urge you to respect the longstanding majority choice of graduate, research and teaching assistants for UAW representation at New York University and NYU-Poly.

For NYU to be a truly world-renowned, innovative and dynamic teaching and research institution, it must respect the choice of its workers to unionize and have a voice at work.

NYU's ongoing refusal to recognize the will of its graduate employees has resulted in an actual diminution of their standard of living, including, but not limited to, unilaterally-imposed dramatic healthcare cost increases, which have especially hurt women and international students. This makes NYU a less accessible institution and hinders its ability to recruit the best and brightest teachers and researchers.

Additionally, we are disturbed that the university intends to await the decision of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) before proceeding any further on the issue of graduate employee unionization. Waiting for the NLRB is not necessary. Moreover, continuing to delay graduate employees' rights undermines the values of the university and will generate increasing rancor in the campus and surrounding community.

We value the contributions the university makes to our city as an institution of higher education and as an economic engine. However, we find the years of delaying the rights of all graduate employees to choose union representation unacceptable and we encourage the university to do the right thing. None of us wants to have to continue to address this ongoing problem as mayor.

We urge the university to engage now in a fair process for graduate, research, and teaching assistants to choose UAW representation, including a public commitment by the university to remain neutral on their decision on unionization and to proceed immediately with good-faith bargaining upon certification that a majority have chosen UAW representation.

Sincerely,



Sal Albanese    Bill de Blasio    John Liu    Christine Quinn    Bill Thompson

cc (via mail): NYU Board of Trustees; Bob King, President, UAW; Julie Kushner, Director, Region 9A